

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

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Introduction

An investigation into the viability of developing a Cross Faculty Centre of Excellence in Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence within Staffordshire University in collaboration with the leading Non-Government Organisation (Karma Nirvana).

An investigation into the viability of developing short courses for other professionals including Social Workers, Government Agencies and other interested parties on the implementation of the criminalisation of Forced Marriage in 2014.



Between January and December 2012 the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1485 cases, where the age was known:

- 13% involved victims below 15 years
- 22% involved victims aged 16-17
- 49% involved victims aged 18-25**
- 8% involved victims aged 26-30
- 8% involved victims aged 31+



Targets

- Meeting and development of presentation, prior to presentation to Faculty, of Forced Marriage Lecture May 7th 2013
- Develop strategy and mission statement for 'Centre of Excellence'
- Further development of links with Karma Nirvana, visit and understanding of their needs and how the university can facilitate them
- Attendance and presentation at SLS Conference September 2013



Outcomes

- Faculty presentation May 2013
- Small scale qualitative research project completed
- Forced Marriage unit bid June 2013 unsuccessful
- Cross faculty meetings, on going
- Attendance at EU forced marriage conference with Karma Nirvana April 2013
- Attendance and paper at Society of Legal Scholars September 2013
- Research informed teaching, LLB, LLM and SERCO
- Developing networks within the EU and international academic communities.
- Developing networks with NGO's including Karma Nirvana and the Freedom charity
- Leverhulm bid to 'network fund' on going
- Plans to host a Karma Nirvana Road show on going
- Mission statement for Centre of Excellence completed and talks about how a 'C of E' would look on going
- International and UK journal co authoring articles on the relevance of forced marriage for students on going
- Courses under development to react to the imminent criminalisation of forced marriage
- Two articles in Criminal Law and Justice Weekly published

Bid preparation

- May 2013 apply to Forced Marriage Unit, Domestic Fund to fund an exploratory investigation at Staffordshire University as to prevalence and effect (to academic outcomes) the threat of forced marriage for students.
- Preparation and seek out suitable EU partners to make an EU bid for funding in September to the DAPHNE (IV) (to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and protect victims and groups at risk) fund.

Conclusion

- The TESS funding has been very helpful seed funding for the Staffordshire University Forced Marriage project.
- Most of the outcomes are ongoing.
- It has been particularly helpful in enabling us to develop our networks and find like minded partners both in the UK and abroad. It is this element of the project that we are intending to take forward with a Leverhulm Network Fund bid after Christmas
- Plans to hold a Karma Nirvana Road show and Forced Marriage Unit event are ongoing and planned for May

References

- Tapp, D. and Jenkinson, S. (2013) Forced Marriage-Culture or Crime? Part I. Criminal Law and Justice Weekly Vol. 177 No.1
- Tapp, D. and Jenkinson, S. (2013) Forced Marriage-Culture or Crime? Part II. Criminal Law and Justice Weekly Vol. 177 No.2

